

Collaborating with Partners

December 11, 2025



Association of
Immunization
Managers

Agenda

- Introductions
- Presentations
 - Becky Prall, RN
 - Merideth Plumptre, RN
- Q&A
- AIM and Partner Resources



Becky Prall, RN

Program Manager
Kansas Department of
Health and Environment



Merideth Plumpton, RN

Program Manager
Vermont Department of Health



Stronger Together: Collaborating with Kansas Partners

Becky Prall, RN | AIM Conference, December 2025

Immunize Kansas Coalition

About the Immunize Kansas Coalition

Working together to protect all Kansans from vaccine-preventable diseases.



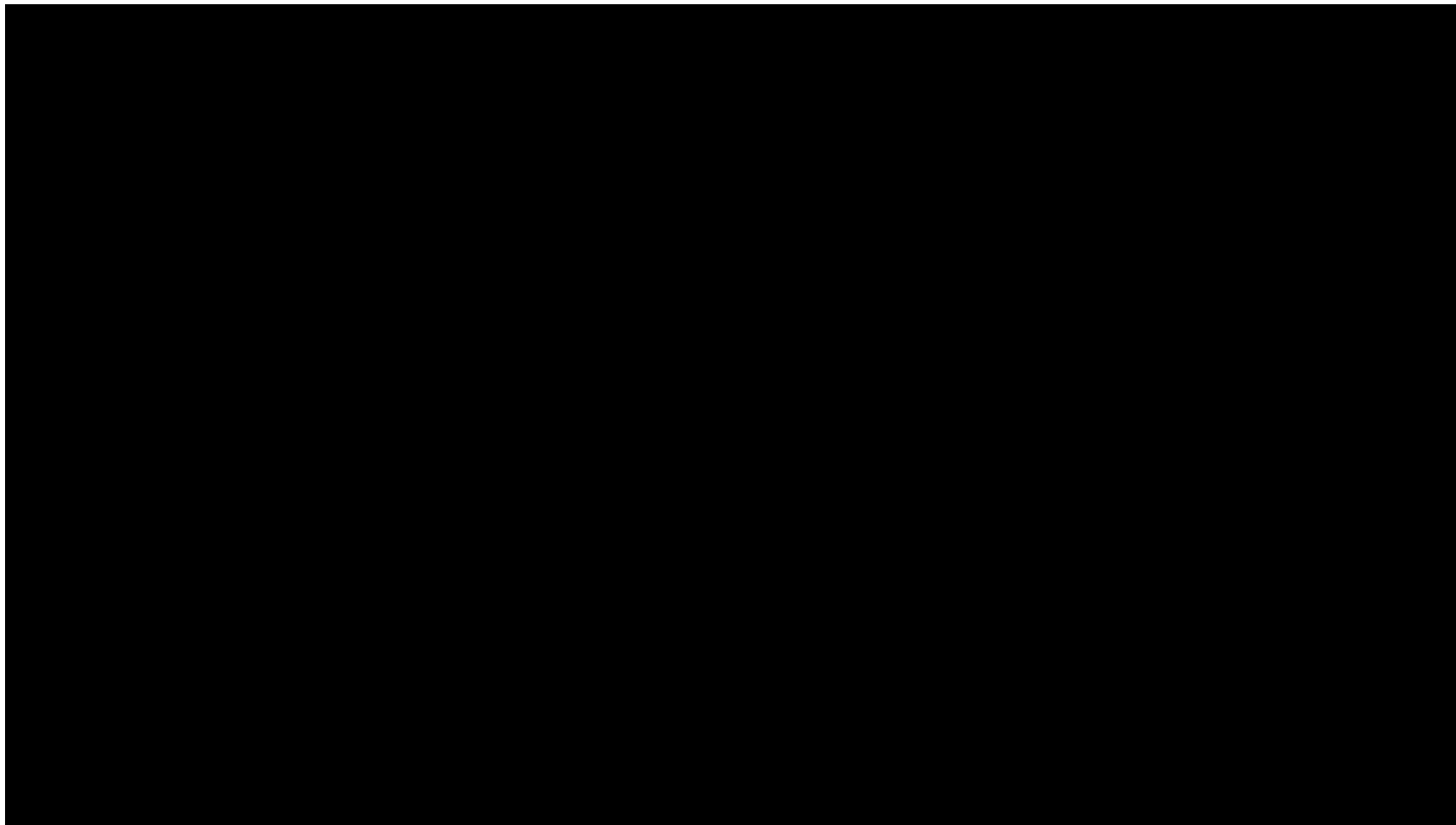
July 29, 2024 Annual Meeting, In Topeka, Kansas

The Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC) is a group of dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals with diverse perspectives - healthcare providers, health departments, researchers, healthcare payers, advocacy groups, nonprofits, school nurses, community members, parents, and more - all working together to improve vaccination rates and protect Kansans from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Mission: The mission of the Immunize Kansas Coalition is to protect all Kansans from vaccine-preventable diseases.

To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans

Celebrating Ten Years



IKC Member Affiliations

Aetna	Kansas Pharmacists Association
American Cancer Society	Kansas Pharmacy Foundation
AmeriCorps	Kansas School Nurse Organization
Be Immune Kansas	Kansas State Nurses Association
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas	K-State Research and Extension
CDC Foundation	KU Medical Center Area Health Education Centers
Children's Mercy Kansas City	Masonic Cancer Alliance Merck & Co., Inc.
Community Care Network of Kansas	Moderna, Inc.
Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas	Next Stage Clinical Research
Diversidad Latina	Novavax Vaccines
DynaVax	NutureKC/Mid America Immunization Coalition
El Centro, Inc.	Olathe Health Physicians
GSK	Pediatric Associates
Johnson & Johnson	Pfizer Inc.
Johnson County Department of Health and Environment	REACH Healthcare Foundation
Kansas Academy of Family Physicians	Reno County Health Department
Kansas Academy of Physician Assistants	Sanofi Pasteur
Kansas Action for Children	Sedgwick County Division of Health
Kansas Advanced Practice Nurse Association	Seqirus
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments	Shawnee County Health Department
Kansas Cancer Partnership	Sunflower Health Plan
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics	Syneos Health VBI Vaccines
Kansas Children's Service League	UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Kansas
Kansas Department of Health and Environment	United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
KFMC Health Improvement Partners	University of Kansas Cancer Center
Kansas Health Institute	University of Kansas Medical Center
Kansas Hospital Association	VaxCare Corporation
Kansas Medical Society	

Honoring Years of Leadership

Thank you Board Chairs!



Karen Braman, RPh, MS
2025-2026



Brandon Kennedy, MD,
FAAP, FABPM
2024-2025



Amanda Applegate,
PharmD, BCACP
2023-2024



Kelly Sommers, BSN, RN
2022-2023



Carlie Houchen, MPH
2021-2022



John Eplee, MD
2015-2016



Dan Leong
2020-2021



Susan Wood, RN, BSN
2019-2020



Gretchen Homan, MD
2018-2019



Laura Connolly, RN,
MSN, MBA, CPHQ
2017-2018



Hope Krebill, MSW, BSN, RN
2016-2017

John Eplee, MD.

- First Board Chair
- Family physician for 30+ years
- State Representative 2017-2025

Pediatric Leadership

Pharmacy Leadership

- Kansas Hospital Association
- Kansas Pharmacists Association

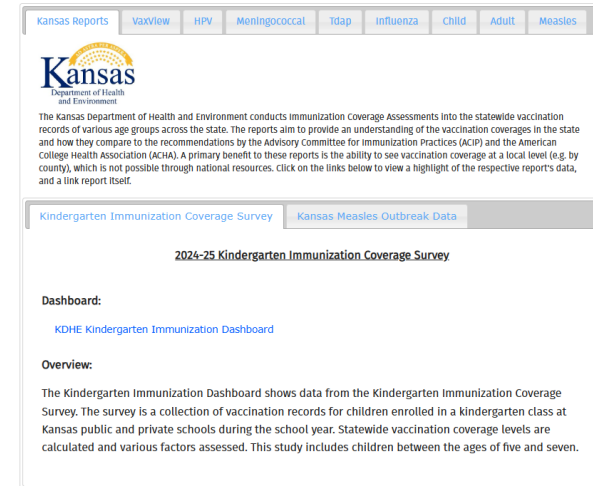
Leveraging Resources

Utilized the Washburn University School of Law when working toward 501(c)(3) status



May accept up to 45% of funding from pharmaceutical companies

Supporting the Kansas Immunization Program



Featured Education Modules



Preventing Flu

- Overview of influenza disease burden
- Review of Kansas immunization rates
- Recommended strategies to increase immunization in your clinic
- Practice providing clear answers to common flu vaccine questions



Shutting the Door on HPV Cancers

- Learn why HPV vaccination is crucial for cancer prevention and routine immunization of young people
- Practice giving effective, succinct HPV vaccine recommendations using the same-day approach
- Build confidence in answering frequently asked HPV vaccine questions accurately and clearly
- Strengthen skills to improve HPV vaccination uptake in your practice

Free CE!

These modules are both 0.5-hour Continuing Education (CE) activities.

CE is available for physicians, pharmacists, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, & nurses.



Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts

Does the HPV vaccine cause infertility?	No. The HPV vaccine actually protects against cancers that can lead to issues with fertility. The HPV vaccine protects against 6 different cancers in males and females.
Is herd immunity real?	Yes. Herd immunity, or community immunity , is when a large part of the community has immunity to a contagious disease, so community measures are the safest way to control the disease.
Is infection-derived immunity better than vaccine-acquired immunity?	No. Exposure to a disease can be unpredictable and even deadly. Vaccines provide a safe and predictable way to build immunity.
Does mRNA in some COVID-19 vaccines alter DNA?	No. It's physically impossible for mRNA to change human DNA.
Do the COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility and miscarriage?	No. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe for pregnant women. In fact, pregnant women are encouraged to get vaccinated to protect themselves and their babies.
Do COVID-19 vaccines contain harmful ingredients?	No. Nearly all COVID-19 vaccines contain the same ingredients: mRNA, lipids, and salts. These ingredients are safe and effective.
Do vaccines cause cancer?	No. Some childhood vaccines have been linked to cancer, but the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks. The risk of getting cancer from a vaccine is extremely low.

VACCINE FEARS OVERTURNED BY FACTS

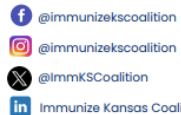


The fact is, fears can play a large role in someone's decision to not vaccinate, despite the strong science and case that they are safe, effective, and life-saving. *Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts* is a collaboration between Immunize Kansas Coalition (IKC) and the creators of Back to the Vax, Heather Simpson and Lydia Greene. Heather and Lydia are moms who used to be active in the anti-vaccine community, but are now strong voices for vaccination.

Whether you're a parent or a doctor caring for patients - this resource is for you! Here are answers to twelve common questions about vaccine ingredients and safety. We hope these facts help build confidence to trust vaccines with the behind-the-scenes work of keeping us healthy.

Do vaccines cause autism?	No. Studies have shown that there is no link between receiving vaccines and developing autism spectrum disorder.
Is formaldehyde a dangerous vaccine ingredient?	No. Formaldehyde is essential to human metabolism, and is used to build energy for physical and mental daily tasks! Formaldehyde in vaccines does not exceed 0.2 mg, but a newborn will have about 50x that naturally in their body. Fun Fact: There is about 60x more formaldehyde in a pear than in any vaccine!
Is mercury a dangerous vaccine ingredient?	No. Elemental mercury was never in any vaccine. Elemental mercury forms methylmercury in the environment. Methylmercury is a toxin that can bioaccumulate in fish and seafood. Ethylmercury is a compound in thimerosal. Unlike methylmercury, ethylmercury is easily eliminated from the body. An ethyl group makes it a completely different chemical from methylmercury. In 2001, thimerosal was removed from all childhood vaccines, with the exception of multidose flu vaccines.
Can polysorbate 80 in vaccines open the blood brain barrier?	No. Polysorbate 80 is used as a stabilizer in vaccines, used to keep vaccines effective during storage and transport. However, it's used in quantities nowhere close to causing harm. Fun Fact: We inject polysorbate 80 everyday! In our food, it's used as a binding agent in peanut butter, ice cream, jello, and more!
Is aluminum a dangerous vaccine ingredient?	No. Aluminum is used in vaccines as an adjuvant - a component that boosts the immune response to a vaccine. Infants are exposed to more aluminum in breastmilk than in all of their recommended vaccines during the first 6 months of life! Fun Fact: Aluminum is found in fruits, vegetables, meats, and fish because it's the 3rd most abundant element on earth.

Connect with Us



Find more information in the *Vaccine Fears Overturned by Facts* booklet! Scan the **immunizekansas** QR code to access the digital Spanish.

IKC IMMUNIZE KANSAS COALITION
BACK TO THE VAX
A GUIDE TO VACCINATION TARGETS
AGAINST ANTI-VAX PROPAGANDA
Learn more about vaccines and IKC at immunizekansascoalition.org



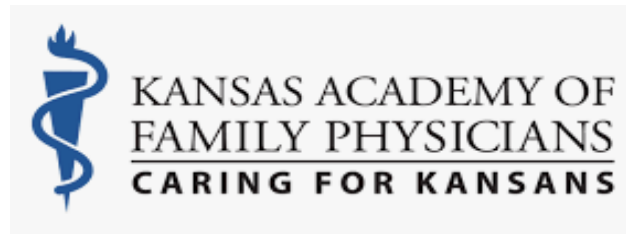
VACCINE FEARS OVERTURNED BY FACTS



Authored by Back to the Vax, Heather Simpson and Lydia Greene
Presented by Immunize Kansas Coalition

IKC IMMUNIZE KANSAS COALITION
[www.immunizekansascoalition.org](https://immunizekansascoalition.org)

Collaborating with Kansas Partners



Questions



To protect and improve the health and environment of all Kansans



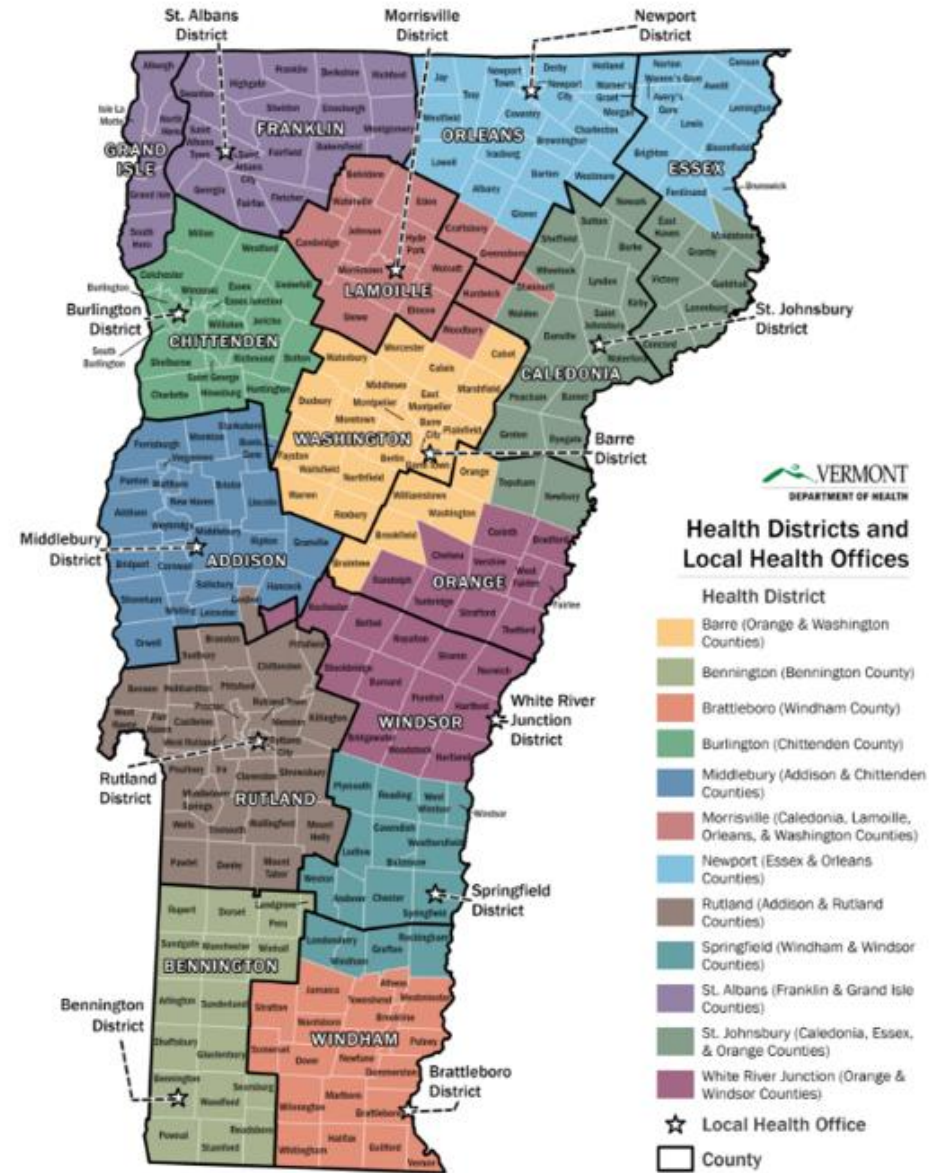
Vaccinating Migrant Farm Workers in Vermont

Merideth Plumpton, RN
Immunization Program Manager
Vermont Department of Health

December 2025 – AIM Conference



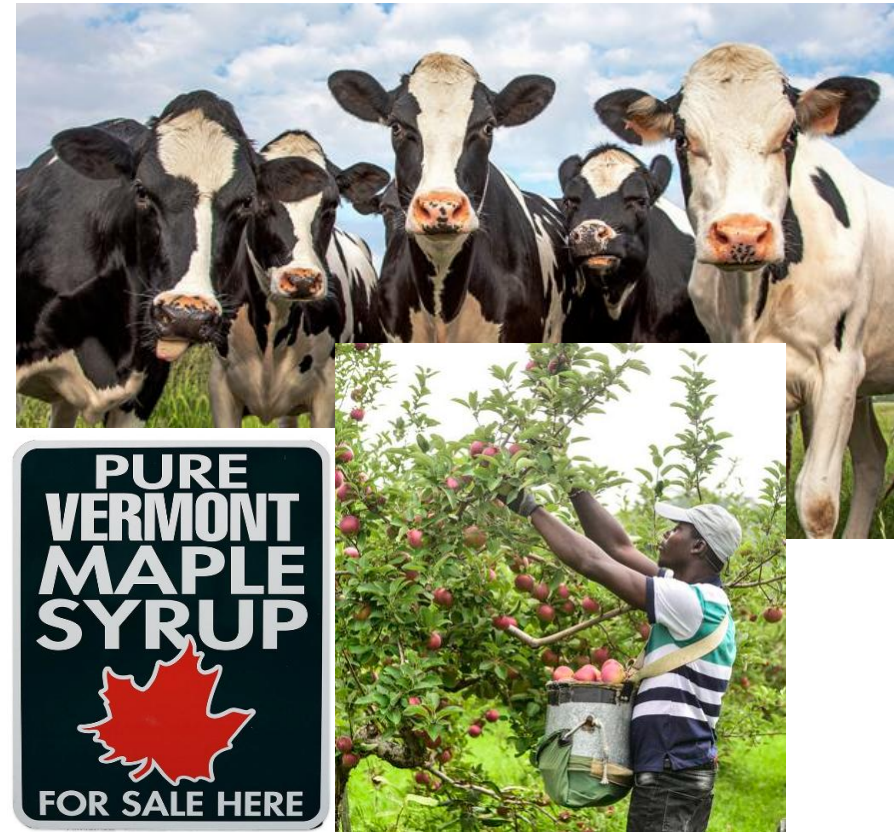
- Population: ~650,000
- Centralized Public Health System
 - 12 Local Health Offices
- Vaccines for Adults Program (VFA)



Vermont

- Nickname: Green Mountain State
- The lead producer of maple syrup in the US
- Vermont has 6,537 farms
 - 528 dairy farms
 - 1,526 farms with beef cows
 - 1,690 farms with poultry
 - 2,429 agricultural

[Census of Agriculture Captures Changes in Vermont Agriculture](#) | [Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets](#)⁴



The Basics



Universal Vaccine State

- Vaccines given to providers at no cost – children and adults 19-64 (regardless of insurance status)
- Made possible by the [Vermont Vaccine Purchasing Program](#) (VVPP) – who collect funding from insurers based on covered lives

Insurer funding is combined with federal funding to support the purchase of vaccines

Many providers and pharmacies have vaccines available for those 65 and older

Enrolled Providers



- VFA: 211
- VFC: 197
- FQHC/RHC: 64
- *Total: 225**

Over 95% of PCP's in Vermont receive vaccine through the Immunization Program

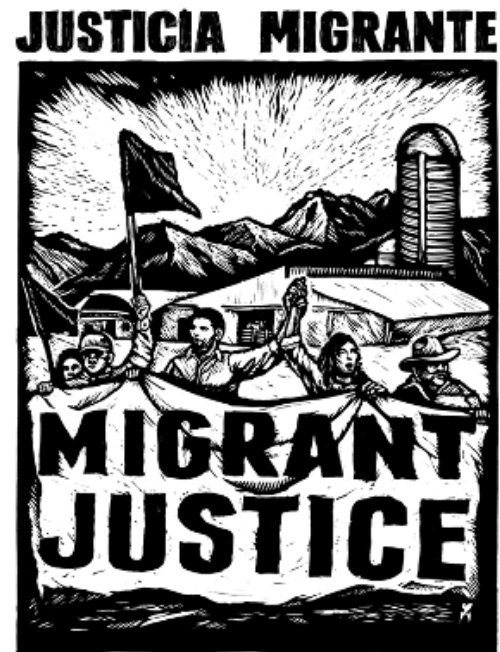
Migrant Farm Workers

- 1200-1500 in Vermont on average
- About 1000 work in dairy
- ~ 500 come on H2A visas

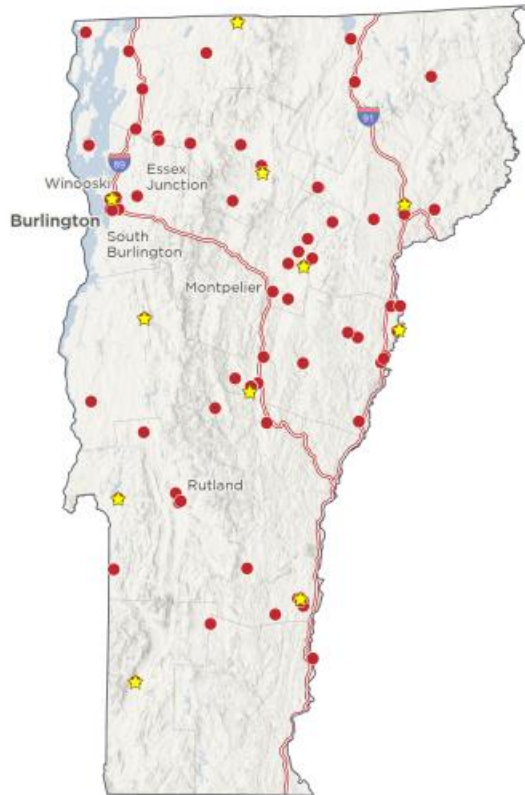


Partners

- FQHC's
- Free Clinics
- Migrant Justice
- Migrant Health – University of Vermont Extension
- Vermont Migrant Education Program



FQHCs



- 11 FQHC organizations
- 97 sites include:
 - ✓ Primary care
 - ✓ Dental
 - ✓ Mental Health
 - ✓ Pharmacy
 - ✓ Substance use treatment
 - ✓ Express Care



VERMONT
97 Health Center Delivery Sites

Open Door Clinic

- Free clinic
- Partially funded by HRSA grant
- County has largest number of Spanish speaking migrants
- Offer services in clinic and on site at the farm
- Partner with Bridges to Health and Middlebury College



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36TB1xcLyH4>

Bridges to Health



Part of the University of Vermont
Extension Program

- Community Health Worker program that addresses barriers faced by migrant workers and their families that prevent them from reaching their full health and well-being potential.

Bridges to Health - Who They Serve

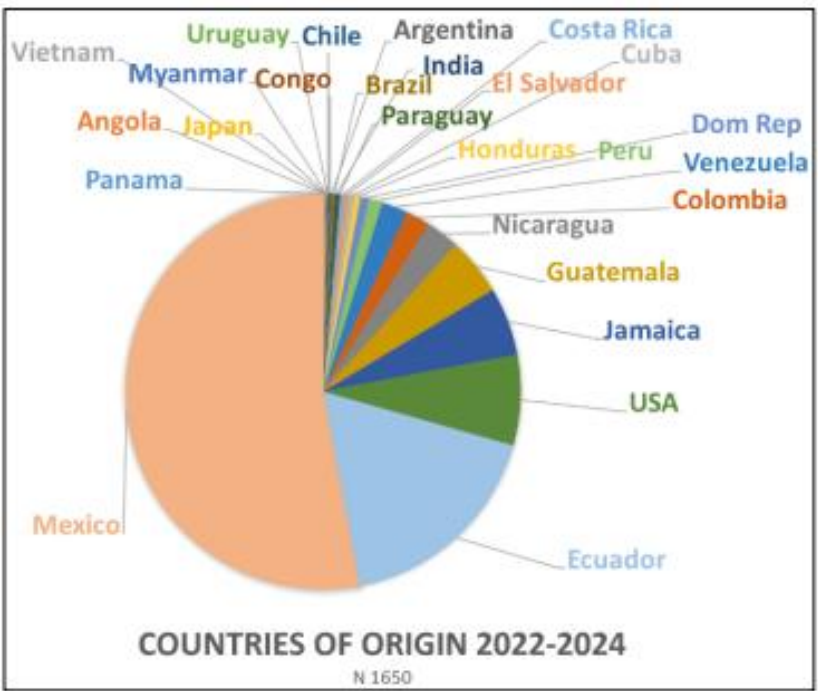
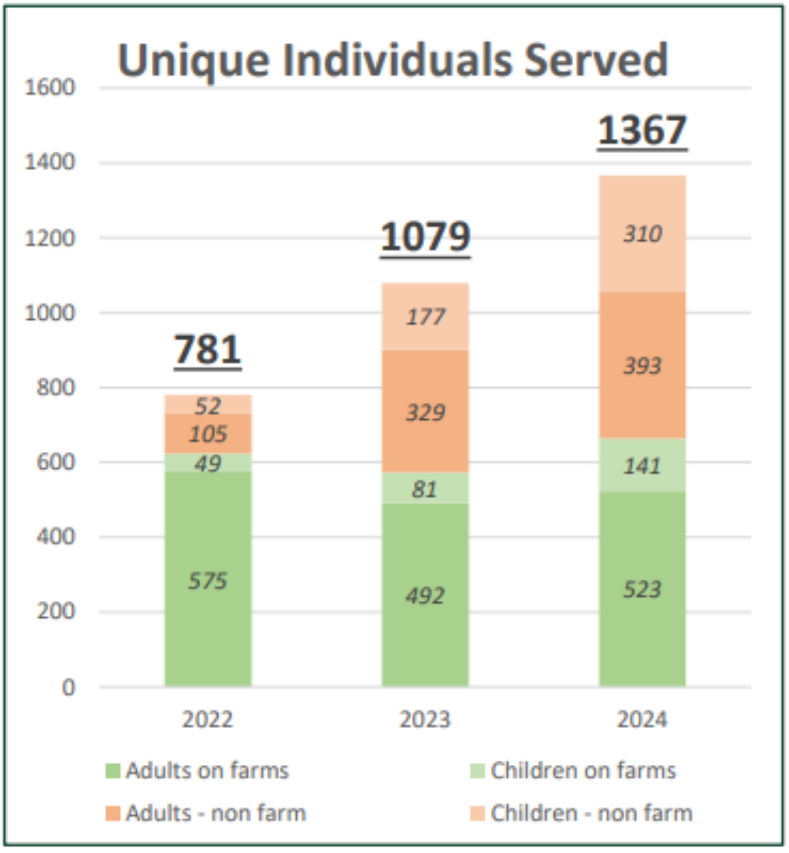
Migrant and Immigrant Workers and Families

- Currently living in Vermont
- Not otherwise supported by existing funded infrastructure (Refugees, Parolees & Immigrants supported by USCRI, ECDC, AALV)
- Face barriers to health care on an individual and/or systems level

Farm clinics open to whole business when possible



Bridges to Health



Health Department Farm Clinics

Season	Number of clinics	Flu vaccine	COVID vaccine	Tdap vaccine	Total vaccines
2024-2025	51	242	92	99	437



2025-2026 Challenges

- Bridges to Health funding challenges
- Decreased Heath Department funding
- Vaccine Hesitancy
 - Farmers
 - Farmworkers
- ICE raids



References & Partners

[Census of Agriculture Captures Changes in Vermont Agriculture | Agency of Agriculture Food and Markets](#)

[Bridges to Health Program | University of Vermont Extension | The University of Vermont](#)

[Bridges-to-Health-2024-Report-1.pdf](#)

[Migrant Justice / Justicia Migrante | Organizing for economic justice and human rights!](#)

[La Clínica Open Door - Open Door Clinic](#)

[Vermont Migrant Education Program \(VMEP\) | University of Vermont Extension | The University of Vermont](#)

Thank you!

Merideth Plumpton
Vermont Department of Health
Immunization Program
280 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671-8390

Merideth.Plumpton@vermont.gov



Q&A



immunizationmanagers.org



@AIMimmunization



Association of Immunization
Managers



Association of
Immunization
Managers

AIM Resources



immunizationmanagers.org



@AIMimmunization



Association of Immunization
Managers



Association of
Immunization
Managers

Immunization Coalition Toolkit

- Explore AIM's [Immunization Coalition Toolkit](#), a comprehensive resource that provides background on the structure and scope of current immunization coalitions. The toolkit includes examples, case studies, strategies, and tools that state/jurisdictional immunization programs can use to build, improve, or support immunization coalitions.
- The toolkit includes:
 - Reports
 - Steps to Success
 - Tip Sheets
 - Case Studies
 - Operational Examples
 - Coalition Map



AIM Adult Immunization Resources

- Explore AIM's [Adult Immunization Toolkit](#), featuring resources to support activities and strategies that immunization programs have employed to improve the delivery of adult immunizations.
- The toolkit includes:
 - 9-Chapter Resource Guide
 - Webinars
 - Regional reports




[Visit AIM's Adult Immunization Toolkit](#)



iREACH Vaccine eLearning Modules

- Series of six (6) publicly accessible eLearning modules to increase knowledge and support community conversations about the flu, COVID-19, and basic information about vaccines and vaccine safety.
- Created with community health workers, trusted messengers, and community champions in mind
- The eModules and supplemental materials are accessible, easy-to-use, and available in English and Spanish

iREACH Vaccine eLearning Modules



This series of six eLearning modules (eModules) was created by the iREACH team at the Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) to increase knowledge and support community conversations about the flu, COVID-19, and basic information about vaccines and vaccine safety.

Please always complete these eModules alongside a review of the latest recommendations and information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, as some information in the eModules will change over time.

Spanish Version: Módulos de reaprendizaje de vacunas

Intended audience: These accessible, easy-to-use eModules and supplemental materials are available in English and Spanish. While the eModules are available to everyone, they were specially created with community health workers, promotoras, trusted messengers and community champions in mind.

Learn how to best use these modules as a training tool by reviewing our [train-the-trainer guide](#).

Accommodations: All iREACH resources are designed with accessibility in mind but might not be fully Section 508-compliant. If you need accommodations to use this resource, please [contact AIM](#).

Length: Each self-paced module takes, on average, 30 minutes to complete.

Module order: We recommend that you start with the vaccine basics and vaccine safety basics modules, as they build the foundation for the vaccine-specific modules. Then we recommend following this with the flu disease basics, flu vaccine basics, COVID-19 disease basics, and COVID-19 vaccine basics modules.

Certificates of completion: When you finish the evaluation at the end of each module, you will receive a digital certificate of completion that includes a printable option.

Registration and fees: The courses are free, and you do not need to register to take them.

Content for this training series was created by the [AIM iREACH](#) team and subject matter experts.

Access [HERE](#)
AIM Homepage → Resource library → iREACH Hub



Please Complete: Evaluation

- The AIM Leadership in Action conference aims to serve our members and partners by facilitating idea sharing, leadership training, and connection.
- Please complete the session specific evaluation in the conference app now and be sure to complete the full conference survey on Thursday.
- Our goal is to make next year's conference even better. Thank you!

Complete the
evaluation for this
session in the
conference app.



Thank you!



immunizationmanagers.org



@AIMimmunization



Association of Immunization
Managers



Association of
Immunization
Managers